

VIEWS ON AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

**Opinions from: political figures, international organisations, scientists,
representative groups and developing country leaders**

June 2003

INTRODUCTION

The use of biotechnology in agriculture has become a major topic of political debate in Europe. Many Europeans rely on comments from people they elect and trust to guide them through this debate. But what are opinion leaders saying about agricultural biotechnology? A large number of independent, knowledgeable and respected figures and organisations recognise that agricultural biotechnology holds great promise for society. They see real benefits in the areas of environment, economics, overseas development and for the consumer.

Many of these comments have been brought together by Agricultural Biotechnology in Europe (ABE) in this document to reflect these views.

ABE includes a group of companies involved with the development of agricultural biotechnology that aims to provide information about agricultural biotechnology to Europeans in an open and transparent manner. This brochure contains a collection of recent statements made by various knowledgeable organisations and people listed in the following categories:

- Political figures
- International Organisations
- Scientists
- Representatives of different societal groups
- Developing country leaders

All statements were made “on the record” – either in published reports or as reported by the media – and are considered to be representative of that person’s or organisation’s views. The annex includes background information on each statement including the source, date, and in some cases, additional information. If you would like to comment on this document or send us your own thoughts, please do send an e-mail to us at: info@ABEEurope.info.

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Winnie Serobe	Ikekeng Women's Group
Dr. James Ochanda	University of Nairobi, Kenya
K. Mugerwa	Agriculture Minister, Uganda
Mukoni Ratshitanga	National Consumer Forum, South Africa
Eduardo Morales	Fondacion Chile (ELB – Earth Liberation Front)
Turner Isoun	Minister of Science and Technology, Nigeria
J.T. Buthelezi	Farmer, South Africa

POLITICAL FIGURES

“It is (of) strategic and long-term importance that Europe masters the new frontier technologies, in particular the life sciences and biotechnology, and uses them for the benefit of society.”

Romano Prodi
President T of the
European Commission¹

“The potential benefits [of biotechnology] are huge in areas such as health care, food, industrial uses and the environment. And our estimates of the size of the future size of the biotechnology market in Europe and globally also demonstrates the urgency of Europe becoming a player in this field. The US biotechnology industry has, over the past two decades, created a large number of new jobs, and at least a dozen new world class companies. If Europe is to catch up with this lead by the US, we must act now.”

Erkki Liikanen
EU Commissioner for
Enterprise and
Information Society²

“Life sciences and biotechnology are important tools in the fight against poverty in the developing world.”

Poul Nielson
EU Commissioner for
Development and
Humanitarian Aid³

“People in Europe are becoming increasingly aware of biotechnology applications and their benefits....We must continue to champion a rational and informed debate on biotechnology so that Europeans are able to make informed decisions. Without sound scientific evidence, the debate will always be distorted... If we do not reverse the trend now, we will be unable to reap the benefits of the life science revolution and become dependent on technologies developed elsewhere.”

Philippe Busquin
EU Commissioner for
European Research⁴

“It’s rather a saddening spectacle to see that 0.03 per cent of worldwide acreage producing GMs is within the confines of the EU compared to about 60 to 70 per cent in the U.S. ...We want to hold our own and we want to lead in new technologies and this is a new technology of prime importance.... I’m talking about products that have been approved by the EU’s scientific committee....”

Frits Bolkestein
EU Commissioner for
the Internal Market⁵

“The vast bulk of the 44 million hectares of GM food crops grown globally is in the United States. In Europe there is hardly any grown. There is an irrational fear of GM food in the EU.[...] The final point I wish to make on biotechnology relates to the effective moratorium on new approvals in the EU. It is my firm hope and intention that we can get the approvals process working again. I have mandated my officials to start a dialogue with the Member States of the European Union with a view to re-starting approvals.”

David Byrne
EU Commissioner
for Health and
Consumer Protection⁶

“Biotechnology is now an industry in its own right: its high potential will make it a cornerstone of a competitive knowledge-based economy in Europe.”

Erkki Liikanen
EU Commissioner for
Enterprise and
Information Society⁷

“A widely held, but inaccurate, perception of biotechnology is that some of its products are inherently damaging to health and the environment...However, European legislation on GM food permits only the marketing of GM varieties that are as safe as conventional varieties.”

“It is necessary to actively shape policy in the area of biotechnology, instead of adopting a “wait and see” approach. We want to take a pro-active stance and explain what benefits biotech can bring to the people. For agriculture, this includes, for example, making crops more resistant against drought, insects or diseases. Europe cannot miss the opportunity that biotechnology offers.

Franz Fischler
EU Commissioner for
Agriculture⁸

“... Agriculture must embrace biotechnology. I want to give this technology a chance to be applied in Europe as well.”

Jaak Gabriels
Former Belgian Farm
Minister⁹

“[The choice between biotechnology and conventional] is [a] fair choice of which I am in favour.”

Antonio Marzano
Italian Minister of
Productive Activities¹⁰

“It would be wrong to block research which might bring real benefits to the poor.”

Clare Short
Former Secretary of
State for International
Development, United
Kingdom¹¹

"The moratorium on GM could be abolished [...] from the point of view of health concerns. In any case, the Ministry considers that GM is not a problem."

**Girolamo Sirchia
Minister of Health, Italy¹²**

"It's a correct and useful choice for the market."

**Silvio Berlusconi
Prime Minister of Italy¹³**

"...agricultural biotechnology had much to offer the developing world. Faced with gigantic needs, it would be against the fundamental interests of humanity to prohibit a priori the modification of characteristics of certain kinds of vegetables, to improve yields or to make cultivation possible in arid regions or poor soil "

**Jacques Chirac
President of
France¹⁴**

"The introduction of GMOs should not be seen as a problem, but a solution to a number of problems within the environment and the area of solving world hunger....But I believe consumer and political attitudes are changing. Politicians are starting to look at the positive side of the GMO story as they see great opportunities for developing countries in particular."

**Bertel Haarder
Danish Member of
European Parliament¹⁵**

"Biotechnology is, perhaps, going to be, for the first half of the 21st century, what information technology was to the last half of the 20th century, and it's particularly important, especially for a country like Britain that is a leader in this science, that we proceed according to the facts. The most important thing is that we get access to the best scientific evidence."

**Tony Blair
Prime Minister of the
United Kingdom¹⁶**

"Biotechnology has the potential to bring tremendous benefits..."

**John Prescott
Deputy Prime Minister,
United Kingdom¹⁷**

"Biotechnology is a key industry for the future. Germany is already a leader in biotechnology. Without biotechnology Germany can hardly ensure well-being for its future generation."

**Gerhard Schröder
Chancellor, Germany¹⁸**

"It seems to me worth looking into the possibilities of GM plants, in order to address the increase in demand for food, particularly in the developing countries where unfavorable agronomic conditions prevail. "

**Claudie Haigneré,
Minister for Research of
New Technologies,
France¹⁹**

“France must not miss the train of biotechnology revolution.”

Noëlle Lenoir
Minister of European
Affairs, France²⁰

“This decision (to lift the moratorium) can be taken when one takes into account that important precautions exist at national and European levels”

Jean-Marc Pastor
French Senator²¹

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

“All of our efforts must be directed to ensure that the potential benefits of biotechnology, with the necessary safeguard measures for health and the environment, are brought to within the reach of everybody, including the poor and the most disadvantaged. “

Jacques Diouf
Director-General
Food and Agricultural
Organisation²²

“Opposition in richer countries to GM crops may set back the ability of the poorest nations to feed growing populations.[...] The world's richest nations must get over their fear of genetically engineered food if they want to help eradicate poverty in the world's poorest.”[...] Genetically modified crops, under attack in the West, may provide an answer to cutting malnutrition in poor nations by developing seeds resistant to drought.”

United Nations
Organisation
Human Development
Report²³

“The effective use of science can help provide solutions for the enormous problems facing the world's poor, including hunger and malnutrition.”

Ian Johnson
Vice President
World Bank²⁴

“We've got to respect each government's decision on accepting food aid, but they've got to explain to their people how they justify turning this food away while children are literally eating dirt. “

Judith Lewis
Chief of the United
Nations World Food
Programme
Southern and Eastern
Africa²⁵

“These varieties have 50% higher yields, mature 30 to 50 days earlier, are substantially richer in protein, are far more disease-and drought-tolerant, resist insect pests and can even out-compete weeds. They will be especially useful because they can be grown without fertilizer or herbicides, which many poor farmers can't afford anyway. This initiative shows the enormous potential of biotech to improve food security in Africa, Asia and Latin America.”

Mark Malloch Brown
Administrator United
Nations Development
Programme²⁶

“Biotechnology offers the only or the best ‘tool of choice’ for marginal ecological zones—left behind by the green revolution but home to more than half of the world's poorest people, dependent on agriculture and livestock.”

United Nations
Development Programme
(UNDP)²⁷

**United Nations
Development Programme
(UNDP)²⁸**

“Benefits for human development are just beginning. Breakthrough applications in medicine and agriculture have huge potential for accelerating human development. But this potential will be truly tapped only if biotechnology is used to address the key health and agriculture challenges of poor countries - tropical diseases and the crops and livestock of the marginal ecological zones left behind by the green revolution. And only if this is done with a systematic approach to assessing and managing risks of harm to human health, environment and social equity.”

**Gordon Conway
The Rockefeller
Foundation²⁹**

“A European ban on GM crops would have a devastating effect on African agriculture...The developing countries, especially African, desperately need new crop variety, new medicines and vaccines. GM technology in Africa is not a silver bullet. But it is going to be essential if we are to produce crops resistant to pests, disease and weeds, tolerant of drought and of high nutritional quality.”

SCIENTISTS

“The responsible genetic modification of plants is neither new nor dangerous. The addition of new or different genes into an organism by recombinant DNA techniques does not inherently pose new or heightened risks relative to the modification of organisms by more traditional methods, and the relative safety of marketed products is further ensured by current regulations intended to safeguard the food supply.”

Statement signed by 20 Nobel Prize Laureates and 3,200 international scientists³⁰

“Through judicious deployment, biotechnology can also address environmental degradation, hunger, and poverty in the developing world by providing improved agricultural productivity and greater nutritional security.”

“The rejection of GM food by some African countries is therefore not based on scientific data evidence of harm to human beings, animals or the environment. As African scientists, we therefore consider it unethical and inhuman to play politics with the lives of people under the pretext that the food aid is unsafe because it is GM food. “

Statement by African scientists³¹

“The use of genetically modified organisms has the potential to offer real benefits in agricultural practice, food quality, nutrition and health, and we support ongoing research in this field.”

The Royal Society United Kingdom³²

“Biotechnology is an up-and-coming industry in Spain, and there are 250,000 jobs related to modern biotechnology. [...] What the man in the street thinks is that biotechnology is something foreign to our lives and can put our lives at risk, but this is an error..”

**José Ignacio Cubero
Head of Department of Genetics and Plant Improvement
University of Cordoba
Spain³³**

“The use of genetically modified (GM) plants has the potential to offer benefits in agricultural practices, food and quality, nutrition and health. In the Royal Society’s report ‘Genetically modified plants for food use and human health- an update’, published in February 2002, we have found that there was no reason to doubt the safety of food made from GM ingredients that were available then, nor to believe that genetic modification makes foods inherently less safe than there conventional counterparts.”

The Royal Society United Kingdom³⁴

"I believe the world will be able to produce the food needed to feed [its] projected population of 8.3 billion by 2025. But it cannot be attained without permitting use of technologies now available, or without research including biotechnology and recombinant DNA."

**Dr. Norman Borlaug
1970 Nobel Prize
Laureate³⁵**

"We cannot turn back the clock on agriculture and only use methods that were developed to feed a much smaller population. It took some 10 000 years to expand food production to the current level of about 5 billion tons per year. By 2025, we will have to nearly double current production again. This increase cannot be accomplished unless farmers across the world have access to current high-yielding crop production methods as well as new biotechnological breakthroughs that can increase the yields, dependability and nutritional quality of our basic food crops. We need to bring common sense into the debate on agricultural science and technology and the sooner the better!"

**Dr. Norman Borlaug
1970 Nobel Prize
Laureate³⁶**

"Biotech could boost productivity: the average maize yield in Africa is less than half the global average...the African continent, more than any other, urgently needs agricultural biotechnology, including transgenic crops, to improve food production."

**Dr. Florence Wambugu
President
A Harvest Biotechnology
Foundation International³⁷**

"For us biotech is an important tool to fight hunger and malnutrition."

**Prof. James Ochanda
University of Nairobi³⁸**

*"We use the example of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) cotton in India to suggest that currently existing GM crops can have significant yield effects that are most likely to occur in the developing world, especially in the tropics and subtropics."*

**Matin Qaim
University of Bonn
David Zilberman
University of California³⁹**

"Governments from the North and the South need to enter into genuine partnerships to build up biotechnology capacity in the South and to tap the potential benefits of this technology for the poor and hungry of today and particularly tomorrow."

**Prof. Eric Tollens
University of Leuven⁴⁰**

"Vitamin A rice will make a hell of a difference because these people are suffering today and we can make a difference right away. It's all very well to call for nice diverse diets but it will take us 20 years to get there."

**Prof. Jules Pretty
University of Essex⁴¹**

“The stark reality is that we've got to increase world food production by 50 % by 2025, and we'll have to do it with less land, less water, less labour and fewer chemicals. I think genetic engineering will be a vital tool.”

**Gurdev Khush
International Rice
Research Institute in the
Philippines⁴²**

“Biotechnological innovations present possibilities to improve the ecological performances of the production processes. They should therefore be stimulated actively....There is no reason to assume that genetically modified food ingredients would imply more health risks by their nature than other food.”

**Netherlands Scientific
Board for
Government Policy⁴³**

“In the best of worlds, the development of segregated GM and non-GM food markets will be a way for developing countries to retain access to important export markets in Europe. In the worst of worlds, critical consumers in Western Europe can prevent poor farmers in developing countries from benefiting from a technology that can alleviate hunger and poverty.”

**Research Institute of
Food Economics
Denmark⁴⁴**

“Biotechnology can provide methods to develop plants tolerant to dryness, salinity, harmful insects, or varieties having additional nutritional qualities.”

**Research Institute CIRAD
(Centre de Coopération
Internationale en
Recherche Agronomique
pour le Développement)
France⁴⁵**

“Exotic plants commonly sold in garden centres pose a much greater threat to Britain's natural environment than any genetically modified crop.”

**Sir Robert May of Oxford
President
The Royal Society
United Kingdom⁴⁶**

“There has been extensive study and scrutiny of the development of GM plants for 15-20 years. After seven years of widespread global uptake and practice, no risks to human health from GM crops have been demonstrated. There is no scientifically proven evidence of any 'threats of serious or irreversible damage' to public health.”

**Royal Society of
Edinburgh
Scotland's National
Academy of Science and
Letters⁴⁷**

“If we were to follow BMA [British Medical Association] advice on the basis of the precautionary principle quoted in their statement, all crop production should cease immediately. Contrary to their insinuations, GM foods have been more extensively tested than any other for health effects and nothing has been found: not a cough, not a rash, not a sneeze.”

**Dr. Bill Macfarlane Smith
Scottish Crop Research
Institute and CropGen⁴⁸**

“GMOs offer promising prospects including restriction of pesticide and insecticide use, improvement of certain food components which help fight certain deficiencies (iron, certain vitamins), protein deficiency or dietary unbalance. In addition, GMOs offer the potential to increase yields because of better weed management and of the soil quality (salinity, drought.)”

**Alain Rérat
National Academy of
Medicine and the National
Academy of
Pharmaceuticals⁴⁹**

“In the context of the present controversy regarding genetically modified organisms (GMOs), an effective defense of fundamental research by the public authorities is necessary. Maintaining financial support for research, which ensures its independence from economic pressures, is indispensable to preserve the credibility of risk evaluation.”

**Roland Douce
Member Academy
of Science
France⁵⁰**

“As far as health is concerned, looking back over the last 10 years, we did not witness any health incident due to GMO consumption.”

**Roland Douce
Member Academy
of Science
France⁵¹**

“In a continent ravaged by poverty, disease and malnutrition, agricultural practices have changed little over millennia. Of all the new technologies recently arisen, molecular biotechnology is one of the few that could significantly improve the livelihoods of the large numbers of people in sub-Saharan Africa. ”

**Paul Keese
Acting Head of
Biotechnology,
International Institute of
Tropical Agriculture, IITA⁵²**

“Biotechnology continues to be the most rapidly adopted technology in agricultural history due to the social and economic benefits the crops offer farmers and society, particularly the 5 million resource-poor farmers in developing countries. [...] Biotech crops can significantly alter the lives of these farmers, limiting the time they must spend in the field and helping alleviate poverty.”

**Clive James
Chairman
International Service for
the Acquisition of Agri-
Biotech Applications⁵³**

“In addition to having a major impact on poverty and hunger, biotechnology has great potential to alleviate environmental degradation.”

**Dr. Florence Wambugu
Former Director of ISAAA
East Africa⁵⁴**

“There is at present no evidence that GM foods cause allergic reactions...The allergenic risks posed by GM plants are in principle no greater than those posed by conventionally derived crops or by plants introduced from other areas of the world.”

**The Royal Society
United Kingdom⁵⁵**

“The inexpensive protein potato should help to feed the poor population in India and in particular to decrease the rate of mortality amongst children.”

**Govindarajan
Padmanaban
Institute of Science
Bangalore
India⁵⁶**

“I’ve been an entomologist working in sugar beet for 19 years and I’ve spent a lot of time crawling around and looking at pests. It wasn’t until we started manipulating and managing weeds within these GM experiments that I found a skylark’s nest for the first time.”

**Dr. Alan Dewar
Rothamsted Research⁵⁷**

REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS

"[Biotechnology] will make farmers wealthier, especially in developing countries where they need to grow more food per hectare. It will be good for society. It will make food more nutritious and healthier. And, it will be good for the environment in reducing reliance on chemicals and in using less land to grow the same food for our 6 billion people in the world."

**Dr. Patrick Moore
Founding Member
of Greenpeace⁵⁸**

"The conclusion of the Orthodox Union's Rabbinical Kashruth Advisory Board was that all such genetic manipulation does not present any Kashruth problems whatsoever."

**K. Hazzah
Member of the
Orthodox Union's
Rabbinical
Kashruth Advisory
Board⁵⁹**

"We are increasingly encouraged that the advantages of genetic engineering of plants and animals are greater than the risks. The risks should be carefully followed through openness, analysis and controls, but without a sense of alarm.... We cannot agree with the position of some groups that say it is against the will of God to meddle with the genetic make-up of plants and animals."

**Bishop Elio
Sgreccia
Vice-President of
the Pontifical
Academy for Life
Catholic Church⁶⁰**

"The situation [famine in Zambia] is very serious because children cannot learn on empty stomachs. The hunger situation in the southern province is very alarming. I think GMOs could ease the problem."

**Roger Moore
Ambassador for the
United Nations
Children's Fund⁶¹**

"When it comes to famine, telling anybody not to eat GM food in this situation is a position we absolutely can't take. We're not saying no to GM foods in the middle of the famine."

**Juan Lopez
Adviser genetic
engineering
Friends of the Earth
International⁶²**

"The results show that there are some real benefits to developing country farmers from Bt cotton."

**Greg Jaffe
Center for Science in the
Public Interest⁶³**

“We know from history that if we're going to deal with poverty, let alone famine and other pressures it brings, you need to increase food production. Certainly one of the options is biotechnology.”

Peter McPherson
Chairman
Partnership to Cut
Hunger and Poverty
in Africa⁶⁴

“We know that [Bt maize] varieties provides competitiveness thanks to greater yields. In addition, these crops have environmental benefits, as they allow to reduce the application of pesticides.”

Esteban Andrés
General Secretary of
General Association of
Corn Breeders
Spain⁶⁵

DEVELOPING COUNTRY LEADERS

“We have to devote the necessary resources to scientific and technological research and development, including biotechnology. We must further encourage innovation among our people and ensure that we introduce new developments into our productive activities.”

Thabo Mbeki
President of the
Republic of South
Africa⁶⁶

“Biotechnology is one of the greatest sources of untapped knowledge that is offering a mechanism to improve the lives of millions of people in Africa. In fact, biotechnology has become increasingly commonplace in many industrialized countries, often promoted by new forms of institutional arrangements and public policy.”

Ben Ngubane
Minister of Arts, Culture,
Science and Technology
South Africa⁶⁷

“The acquisition of biotechnological capability in the country now is crucial to Nigeria's advancement towards food sufficiency and the eradication of diseases.”

Olusegun Obasanjo
President of Nigeria⁶⁸

“The conventional approaches have not provided a solution. We cannot afford to ignore the potential application of biotechnology for the Indian farmer.”

Usha Barwale-Zehr
Director of research
Indian seed company⁶⁹

“We feel that biotechnology, though not a panacea to Africa's problems, has a role to play.”

Luke E. Mumba
University of Zambia,
School of Natural
Sciences⁷⁰

“Despite what anti-lobbyists say, GMOs are not harmful. Overpopulation puts a huge strain on the world's food sources – many people are already starving and, in the future, this dilemma could worsen if innovations are not found and implemented.”

Aubrey Parsons
South African Association
for Food Science and
Technology⁷¹

“They [GMOs] hold significant potentials in increasing food security, alleviating poverty and improving the socio-economic welfare of resource-poor farmers in the country.”

Bonaya Godana
Agriculture Minister for
Kenya⁷²

“Our position in Kenya is that biotechnology is not a problem. Poverty is.”

Shem Adhola
Ministry of Agriculture
Kenya⁷³

"I believe there is the opportunity to transform things with biotechnology, not just at the Africa level but also at the global level. Unless we use science and employ science properly, we are not going to be able to feed Africa. Africa cannot afford to be left behind. Other parts of the world have been able to feed their people based on science."

Prof. Ruth Oniang'o
University of Nairobi⁷⁴

"There is a lot of misinformation that is told to consumers. We have been made to believe that GM food is wrong and dangerous for us. The problem with the biotechnology debate is that it has been politicised by the anti-biotechnology propaganda. I believe that Africa needs this technology to help alleviate the problems caused by natural disasters such as drought and floods."

Winnie Serobe
President of the Ikekeng Women's Group⁷⁵

"GM seeds would be a great solution for arid areas and we need to harness the technology for regional staples like cassava, millet, and sorghum."

Dr. James Ochanda
University of Nairobi⁷⁶

"We shall use biotech to increase crop and animal yields as well as reduce pest and disease incidence."

Kisamba Mugerwa
Minister of Agriculture
Uganda⁷⁷

"Europeans can afford to shun GM food, but there are people in my country dying because they do not have food at all. Excuse me if I don't adopt the extreme positions of groups like Greenpeace."

Mukoni Ratshitanga
South Africa's National Consumer Forum⁷⁸

"Our standard of living is very much improved and from the increased profits we have money to send our children to school."

J.T. Buthelezi
Cotton farmer
Makhathini flats
South Africa⁷⁹

"The acquisition of biotechnological capability in the country now is crucial to Nigeria's advancement towards food sufficiency and the eradication of diseases."

Olusegun Obasanjo
President of Nigeria⁸⁰

"The government has identified both information technology and biotechnology as the cutting edge, that Nigeria as a nation must invest in, to leap-frog the development process."

Turner Isoun
Minister of Science and Technology, Nigeria⁸¹

ANNEX

- ¹ Romano Prodi, European Commission President, Stakeholder meeting, Brussels, 27-28 September 2001.
- ² Erkki Liikanen, EU Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society, 23 January 2002.
- ³ Mr Poul Nielson, EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, Conference on Sustainable Agriculture, Brussels, 31 January 2003.
- ⁴ Philippe Busquin, EU Commissioner for Research, EC Press Release, Brussels, 14 March 2003.
- ⁵ Frits Bolkestein, EU Commissioner for Internal Market, Daily Mail, 20 November 2001.
- ⁶ David Byrne, EU Commissioner for Health and Consumer Protection, "A European approach to food safety and GMOs," National Press Club, Washington D.C., Speech/01/442. [Hhttp://www.foodlaw.rdg.ac.uk/eu/doc-37.htm](http://www.foodlaw.rdg.ac.uk/eu/doc-37.htm), 9 October 2001,
- ⁷ Erkki Liikanen, EU Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society, , "The Way Forward for Biotech and Sustainable Development in the EU" World Life Sciences Forum Biovision, Lyon, France, Speech/03/198. EU Institutions Press Releases, 10 April 2003, [Hhttp://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/198/0|RAPID&lg=EN&displayH=](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=SPEECH/03/198/0|RAPID&lg=EN&displayH=)
- ⁸ Franz Fischler, EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Conference on life sciences and biotechnology - Concluding plenary session, Brussels, 28 September 2001.
- ⁹ Jaak Gabriels, Former Belgian Farm Minister, EU Parliament, Brussels, 10 July 2001.
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